



**For the Environment Committee
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
February 10, 2021**

Rivers Alliance was formed to fight for sound water policies at the state and federal levels, to provide education on water resources, and to advocate for any person or group striving to protect water. If you want clean, free-flowing and healthy rivers, and high-quality drinking water, Rivers Alliance is here to help.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following raised bill before you today.

SB 839 AAC ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS AND PESTICIDE REGULATION IN THE STATE – SUPPORT

A citizen's ability to protect themselves and their environment from harm is limited by the availability of information. The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) 2017 report "*Environmental Enforcement in Connecticut, Part 1: Pesticides*" highlights that DEEP's current system of mountains of paper documents in filing cabinets is a barrier to the average citizen's (or even a staffed organization's) ability to determine if they are adequately protected from misapplication or over-application of pesticides. Making information available online is an essential first step.

CEQ's report also points out that the fee revenue generated by DEEP from the pesticide program is approximately \$3,000,000. One of the recommendations in the report is that DEEP receive dedicated funds from this revenue to enhance enforcement and transparency. This was proposed in HB 5999 in 2019 and was passed by this committee, as well as the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

Please pass this bill and consider including CEQ's recommendations as stated in its 2017 report.